

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /141 W

----- 120889

R 251549Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0101

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO  
USMISSION USUN  
CINCLANT  
USCINCEUR  
DIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PO  
SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF NEW PORTUGUESE SUB-CABINET

REF: LISBON 3095; LISBON 3150

SUMMARY: AS A WHOLE, SUB-CABINET WHICH SWORN IN BY PRESIDENT SPINOLA ON JULY 24 BALANCED AND BASED ON BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US DOES NOT REVEAL ANY LEFTWARD TILT BY NEW GOVERNMENT. COMMUNISTS HAVE ONLY ONE REP, SOCIALISTS FOUR. MAJORITY OF GROUP COMPETENT TECHNOCRATS WHO UNKNOWN NATIONALLY. OVERALL COMPOSITION SUB-CABINET REFLECTS DESIRE BY MOVEMENT OF ARMED FORCES TO GET COUNTRY MOVING AGAIN, AND REVEALS A SUBORDINATION OF POLITICAL PARTY CONSIDERATIONS IN SEARCH FOR COMPETENT INDIVIDUALS TO CARRY OUT GOVERNMENT (I.E. MFA) POLICY DIRECTIVES. END SUMMARY.

1. NEW SUB-CABINET OF TWENTY-SIX SWORN IN BY PRES. SPINOLA JULY 24. GROUP IS ALMOST ALL MALE, PREDOMINANTLY IN THIRTIES AND FORTIES, AND TECHNICALLY TRAINED. TEN ARE ENGINEERS OR ARCHITECTS, MOST OF REST ARE LAWYERS. MILITARY HAS TWO REPRESENTATIVES, BOTH OF WHOM, LIKE CIVILIAN COUNTERPARTS, ARE NOT PROMINENT NATIONALLY. MANY OF CIVILIAN MEMBERS WERE ACTIVE IN PAST IN CIRCLES OPPOSED TO OLD REGIME, AND SOME WERE ARRESTED BY POLITICAL POLICE ON CHARGES (PERHAPS TRUMPED UP) OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION OF RECENT DATE INDICATING THAT ANY SUB-CABINET MEMBER A  
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COMMUNIST EXCEPT PERHAPS LABOR SECRETARY CARVALHAS, WHO IS PROBABLY A COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER. SOCIALISTS IN CONTRAST HAVE AT LEAST FOUR REPRESENTATIVES, NUNO PORTAS (HOUSING), JORGE CAMPINOS (FOREIGN AFFAIRS), RUI GRACIO (PEDAGOGICAL ORIENTATION) AND ARMANDO BACELAR (JUSTICE). LIBERAL TECHNOCRAT GROUP KNOWN AS SEDES HAS A NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES IN SUB-CABINET, BUT SIGNIFICANTLY DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP), WHICH IS COMMUNIST DOMINATED COALITION, WAS EXCLUDED

FROM NEW GOVERNMENT. (PROBABLY BECAUSE OF INSISTENCE BY SOCIALISTS AND BY CENTRIST PPD COLLEAGUES IN MDP THAT THE COALITION NOT SEEK POLITICAL ROLE FOR ITSELF AND IN FACT BEGIN TO WITHER AWAY AS AN AUTONOMOUS POLITICAL GROUP.)

2. PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES, WHO SOME (VAGUELY) LABEL A "LEFTIST," HAS NOT SHOWN IN SELECTING HIS NEW SUB-CABINET ANY MARKED PROPENSITY TO CHOOSE LEFTIST PARTY MEMBERS FOR VACANT JOBS (ALTHOUGH THOSE PERSONS ON WHOM WE HAVE NO BIO INFORMATION MAY OF COURSE BE SOCIALISTS OR PCP MEMBERS). OF TEN NEW FACES IN SUB-CABINET, ONLY TWO ARE KNOWN TO BE ACTIVE IN SOCIALIST PARTY, AND NO NEW COMMUNISTS BROUGHT IN TO FILL OPENINGS IN LABOR MINISTRY (HERBERTO GOULART, A COMMUNIST, WAS IN THE RUNNING FOR EMIGRATION AND EMPLOYMENT JOB). WE BELIEVE COMPOSITION OF THIS GROUP OF TWENTY-SIX IS BALANCED, AND IS GOOD INDICATION OF DESIRE TO GET COUNTRY MOVING AGAIN ON BASIS HARD WORK BY COMPETENT INDIVIDUALS. APPARENTLY POLITICAL PARTY CONSIDERATIONS SUBORDINATED TO SEARCH FOR COMPETENCE IN SELECTION OF THOSE WHO WILL BE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR EXECUTION OF GOVERNMENT (READ ARMED FORCES) POLICY.  
SCOTT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, PO  
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